

July 20, 2009

- CALL TO ORDER** The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on July 16, 2009, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.
- ROLL CALL** Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Dennis Nero, Thomas Farley, Steven Skok, Richard Gabler, Jr., Richard Dornisch, Sean Gabler, City Manager David Greene, and City Solicitor Mark Jacob
- VISITORS** Visitors included: Dan Hepner, Sam Shefcyk, Eric Uhl, Michael Dippold, Jeff Uhl, James Groll, and Joe Goetz
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
June 6, 2009 Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2009, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor, except Steven Skok who abstained.
- CITIZEN COMMENTS** There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.
- MANAGER'S REPORT** Manager Greene presented the following report:
- July 1st, Members of Council & I attended Open House at the Canadensis Building.
  - July 6th, attended the check presentation from Mee Foundation to the West Creek Rails-to Trails Assoc. to begin the feasibility study to plan for the construction of the trail between St. Marys and Emporium.
  - July 7th, representatives from the Chamber & I toured a commercial building on Erie Ave. The owner is willing to rent the bldg. for taxes and insurance, in return for the tenant making improvements to the building.
  - July 8th, Mike Mullaney & I met with Mark Adams at Senator Scarnati's office in Brockway along with Kevin Kline, PennDOT.
  - July 8th, Mike Mullaney, Steve Samick, Tim Brennan & I met with Mark Jacob to discuss the Eberl Street bridge.
  - July 14th, attended the Parking Authority meeting to bring the Authority up-to-date on the Parking Garage Project. Gabe Uljon, ATA, was in attendance to discuss the Inter-Modal Transportation Project.
  - July 15th, Tim Brennan & I met with Cherly Moore, Allegheny Power, to finalize plans for the placing of underground electric lines on Depot St. This project is being funded with CDBG funds and should be put out for bids this week.

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Mayor Geyer asked if the trail between St. Marys and Emporium would be a walking trail? Manager Greene responded it will be a hiking, biking, and snowmobile trail and will be eighteen miles long between Emporium and St. Marys.

Richard Dornisch questioned the status of the Lesser Corner. Manager stated he met with Mark Adams and PennDOT on July 8th to discuss the issue but cannot report anything at the present time.

## APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Thomas Farley made a motion to approve the Expenditures Report for the period June 14, 2009 thru July 18, 2009, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Mayor Geyer presented the Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2009. June is the half-way mark for the City. Total revenue collected for the General Fund is \$3.7 million or 60.33% of the budget. Last year, at this time, the City collected \$3.7 million or 66.24% of the budget. Total expenditures for the General Fund is at \$2.5 million or 41.74% of the budget. Last year, expenditures were at \$2.6 million or 47.12% of the budget. Total real estate taxes collected is 92.23% of the budget and last year, 92.59% was collected. Earned income collected is 51.04% of the budget and for last year, the City collected 51.62% of the budget. For the EMS Tax or Local Service Tax, the City collected 49% of the budget for this year and in 2008, 39% was collected. The Pension Plans value dropped below the balance from last year, at this time.

Deputy Mayor Nero  
re: Sign Ordinance

Deputy Mayor Nero requested the Mayor to call on him at this time, before Legislative Action, to make a motion to clear-up the confusion with the Planning Commission stating they are still under the impression that they cannot look at the "Sign Ordinance" without our permission.

Deputy Mayor Nero made a motion giving the Planning Commission permission to look at the "Sign Ordinance" and come back with recommendations to Council. This is the "Sign Ordinance" only, nothing else. The motion was seconded by Mayor Sally Geyer.

Motion Passed

After a brief discussion, all were in favor of the motion that the Planning Commission has Council's permission to look at the Sign Ordinance.

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**LEGISLATIVE ACTION**  
**Subdivision Application**  
 Anthony M. and  
 Rita M. DeFranco

A Subdivision Application was received from Anthony M. and Rita M. DeFranco, north of the intersection of Benedict St. with Church St. This is a minor subdivision proposing to divide a 1,482 sq. ft. lot from an approximately 80,000 sq. ft. parcel owned by the DeFrancos for the purpose of a lot addition to the Elk County Catholic High School's tract and field parcel. No new parcels will be created. The Planning Commission commented that there was no suggested deed descriptions for the combined ECCHS lots or the residual DeFranco lot. The surveyor provided City staff with the deed descriptions as per the Commission's request.

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the Subdivision for Anthony M. and Rita M. DeFranco, seconded by Dennis Nero, and all were in favor.

**Consider for Adoption**  
 Resolution No. 09-19  
 re: Establishing  
 an Elk Creek Park  
 Fund

Resolution No. 09-19 was presented to establish accounts with Northwest Savings Bank to be identified as the "Elk Creek Park Fund" and to be used solely for the deposit of funds provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local funding for the aforementioned project.

Thomas Farley made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-19, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor, except Sean Gabler who abstained.

**TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION**  
 Eberl Street Bridge

Solicitor Jacob explained the status of the Eberl Street Bridge. The small bridge crosses between St. Marys Carbon and Keystone Carbon and connects up with Spring Road on the other side. There are concerns regarding the condition of the bridge as to whether or not it can handle the loads that go in and out of Keystone Carbon. Grant monies were looked into but since there is a private residence on Spring Road there were some issues that need to be addressed. One would be that the residents would have to be granted some sort of access to their property. Because of the liability, Keystone will not permit access through their property to the residence.

Mr. Jacob felt the City will probably drop the the project at this time. The bridge will be inspected and if needed, the weight limit could be posted and made lower.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
 NON-AGENDA TOPICS**  
 Joe Goetz

Joe Goetz was present, representing citizens, who are concerned about the parking garage. Mr. Goetz

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thanked the Manager for responding to his questions. He stated the citizens still have concerns and felt they should be directed to Council or the Manager to have their concerns resolved. He also questioned if the City heard anything on the Section 108 loan? The Manager responded the full application will be submitted today to HUD and DCED.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Sean Gabler stated he had questions regarding Emergency Management. He wanted to make sure all Council members are FEMA-NIMS Certified. If a disaster occurs and all of Council is not certified, the City could lose Federal funds. Mr. Gabler also is concerned about the fire siren system not working to be able to alert citizens of an impending disaster. He felt a grant should be applied for to help restore the system. The Manager stated the City could probably apply for a FEMA or Homeland Security grant. Most of the sirens are still at various locations. Mr. Gabler stated the City needs a proper system in place to alert our citizens.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- Elk County's Marcellus Shale Task Force will be meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Central Planning Office on Montmorenci Road. The meeting will be chaired by June Sorg. The Mayor stated the meeting is open to the public and she urged the press to attend.

- Next Council meeting will be held on August 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

Dennis Nero made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Mayor

W. Shirley Dicklas  
Recording Secretary